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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/714,583

11/13/2003

Gordon Clark

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MERCHANT & GOULD PC

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

CARPIO, IVAN HERNAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/714,583

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

Examiner

Ivan H. Carpio

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner Notes

With regards to the appeal brief filed 12/11/06 we have decided to re-open prosecution, furthermore the final rejection mailed 05/26/06 has been cancelled and replaced by the following action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4,6-10,12-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Samela (US 6220873).

With respect to claim 1 Samela teaches a patch panel module (Fig. 2), comprising: a) a one piece housing (Fig. 2, element 502) having a generally L-shaped construction, the housing including a face plate (Fig. 2, element 508) having a front opening (Fig. 2, element 583); and b) a module card (Fig. 2, element 516) attached to the housing by a snap-fit connection (Fig. 2, element 515 and 513), the module card including a front connector (Fig. 2, element 512) positioned adjacent to the front opening, and a rear connector (Fig. 2, element 536) located at an end of the module card opposite the front connector.

With respect to claim 2 and with all the limitations of claim 1, Samela teaches

a securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis (Fig. 6), the securing arrangement including at least a first flexible tab (Fig. 2, element 513).

With respect to claim 3 and with all the limitations of claim 1, Samela teaches that the L-shaped construction is defined by the face plate (Fig. 2, element 508) and a housing side (Fig. 2, element 502), the face plate being oriented generally perpendicular to the module card and the housing side being oriented generally parallel to the module card (Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 4 and with all the limitations of claim 3, Samela teaches that the housing further includes a handle (Fig. 2, the finger handles on the back side edges) extending outward from the housing side.

With respect to claim 6 and with all the limitations of claim 2, Samela teaches that the securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis further includes a second flexible tab (Fig. 2, element 513 other side).

With respect to claim 7 and with all the limitations of claimed 3, Samela teaches that the snap-fit connection includes at least one latch (Fig. 2, the little projection on the left side and the holes formed on the sides of the card 516) formed on the housing side of the L-shaped construction, the latch being arranged to engage a hole (Fig. 2, the holes on the left and right edges of the module) formed in the module card.

With respect to claim 8 Samela teaches a patch panel module, comprising: a) a housing (Fig. 2, element 502) including a face plate and a housing side, the face plate (Fig. 2, element 508) and housing side (Fig. 2, element 502) being oriented generally perpendicular to one another, the face plate including at least one front opening (Fig. 2,

element 583); b) a module card having a front connector and a rear connector, the front connector being positioned adjacent to the front opening of the housing, the module card being secured to the housing by a retaining structure, the retaining structure including: i) a flexible latch (Fig. 2, the little projection on the left side and the holes formed on the sides of the card 516) formed on the housing side; and ii) a hole (Fig. 2, the holes on the left and right edges of the module) formed in the module card; iii) wherein the flexible latch engages the hole of the module card to provide a snap-fit connection between the housing and the module card.

With respect to claim 9 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Samela teaches a securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis, the securing arrangement including at least a first flexible tab (Fig. 2, element 513) extending from the housing.

With respect to claim 10 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Samela teaches the housing further includes a handle (Fig. 2, the finger handles on the back side edges) extending outward from the housing side.

With respect to claim 12 and with all the limitations of claim 9, Samela teaches that the securing arrangement for securing the module to a patch panel chassis further includes a second flexible tab (Fig. 2, element 513) extending from the housing.

With respect to claim 19 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Samela teaches that the one-piece housing includes the face plate (Fig. 2, element 508) and the housing side (Fig.2, element 502).

Method claims 13-17 are necessarily performed in light of the product.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samela in view of Wilhelm (US 5761033).

With respect to claim 5 and with all the limitations of claim 3, Samela teaches all of the limitations except an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED positioned on the module card. Wilhelm teaches an aperture (Fig. 6, 201C) formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED positioned on the module card. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have an aperture for viewing and LED, as taught by Wilhelm, on the patch panel module taught by Samela for the purpose of learning information about the module card such as ^{whether it is} ~~weather its~~ operating properly.

PA 5/24/07

With respect to claim 11 and with all the limitations of claim 8, Samela teaches all of the limitations except an aperture formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED positioned on the module card. Wilhelm teaches an aperture (Fig. 6, 201C) formed between the face plate and the housing side for viewing an LED positioned on the module card. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention to have an aperture for viewing and LED, as taught by Wilhelm, on the patch panel module taught by Samela for the purpose of learning information about the module card such as whether it is operating properly.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samela in view of Wakabayashi (US 6560115).

With regards to claim 18, Samela teaches all of the limitations but does not specifically teach that the one-piece housing is a one-piece molded housing. Wakabayashi teaches a one-piece molded housing (column 7, lines 63-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make the housing, taught by Samela, a one-piece molded housing, as taught by Wakabayashi, for the purpose of increased structure strength and manufacturing efficiency.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ivan H. Carpio whose telephone number is 571-272-8396. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 7:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2841

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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5/24/07